Closing the Gap of Health Inequities!

Friday, December 1, 2023

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Division Director
IDOH - Office of Minority Health
OUR MISSION:

To promote, protect, and improve the health and safety of all Hoosiers.

OUR VISION:

Every Hoosier reaches optimal health regardless of where they live, learn, work, or play.
Office of Minority Health Mission

• To improve the health of all racial and ethnic populations in Indiana through increased awareness, partnerships, and the development and promotion of effective health policies and programs that help to reduce minority health disparities.
Health Equity and Health Disparities

- Health equity and health disparities are intertwined.
- Health equity means social justice in health.
- Health disparities are how we measure progress toward achieving health equity.
- Moving toward greater equity is achieved by selectively improving the health of those who are economically/socially disadvantaged, not by a worsening of the health of those in advantaged groups.

DEI learning is a journey – not a race.
Barriers

“What’s the matter? It’s the same distance!”
DISPARITIES IN HEALTH OUTCOMES

- Diabetes
- Heart Disease
- Cancer Outcomes
- Malnutrition
- Infant Mortality
- Smoking
- Obesity
- Substance Abuse

ROOTS OF INEQUITIES

- Environmental Toxins/Hazards
- Poor Quality of Care
- Discrimination
- Provider Implicit/Explicit Biases
- Poor Quality of Schools
- Unemployment
- Housing
- Poverty
- Uninsured
- Racism
- Food
## The Case for Improving Indiana’s Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smoking and tobacco use</td>
<td>45th</td>
<td>High school students using e-cigarettes</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>46th</td>
<td>Youth with obesity</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td>43rd</td>
<td>Infant mortality rate</td>
<td>6.7 per 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childhood immunizations (by age 35 months)</td>
<td>41st</td>
<td>Years of potential life lost due to injury</td>
<td>137,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall health ranking</td>
<td>35th</td>
<td>Heart disease deaths</td>
<td>191.2 per 100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Image: Indiana Department of Health*
Health First Indiana: Health First Indiana transforms public health through a state and local partnership to deliver services at the county level.

Senate Enrolled Act 4, legislation passed by the 2023 Indiana General Assembly, provides Health First funding starting in 2024 so counties can determine the health needs of their communities and implement evidence-based programs focused on prevention. ($75 million in 2024 and $150 in 2025)

Counties decide whether to opt-in to the new funding and to provide the core public health services, including trauma and injury prevention, chronic disease prevention, maternal and child health and more.
Initiatives Internal IDOH

Health Equity Council
Language Access Plan
Equity in Pay Analysis
Climate Survey
Leadership Support
IHOPE
Together We Will

• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help reduce the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic among racial and ethnic populations that have been disproportionately affected.

• Together We Will is focused on funding community projects impacting eight public health priority areas: Access, COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy, Environmental Justice, Infant & Maternal Mortality, Mental Health, Structural & Systemic Barriers, Substance Use Disorder, and Violence.
INDIANA HEALTH EQUITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER MODEL FOR ADDRESSING COVID-19-RELATED DISPARITIES

**Problem:** COVID-19 widened health disparities

- Inadequate community health preparedness plan and community health workforce

**Solution:** Leveraged a multisector collaboration:

- Indiana Department of Health Office of Minority Health
- Indiana Community Health Workers Association
- Purdue University Community Health Workforce Development Institute

**Infrastructure for the Indiana Health Equity Council** (INHEC) Community Health Worker (CHW) Model

- Nine trained OMH Health Equity CHWs in nine state Public Health Preparedness Districts
- Generate and implement evidence-based efforts addressing COVID-19-related health disparities
Social Determinants of Health

- Economic Stability
- Health Care and Quality
- Social and Community Context
- Neighborhood and Built Environment
- Education Access and Quality
Creating Equitable Solutions

Improving the health of the most vulnerable populations
Create policies to strengthen the states health
Invest in public health infrastructure
Involve community and its partners
Improve health care access and quality
How does policy impact our health and well being?

Access to healthcare:
• Health insurance coverage
• Medicaid expansion
• Promoting healthcare facilities in underserved areas

Social determinants of health:
• Equal access to education
• Affordable housing policies
• Fair employment practices

Prevention and public health:
• Vaccination requirements
• Tobacco control policies
• Nutrition standards in schools
• Workplace safety regulations

Environmental health:
• Pollution reduction policies
• Safe water and air quality regulations

Health equity and social justice:
• Reducing racial and socioeconomic inequalities
• Targeted resources for underserved communities
• Addressing systemic barriers to healthcare access

Health behavior and lifestyle choices:
• Restrictions on advertising unhealthy products
• Nutrition labeling requirements
• Promoting physical activity

Healthcare quality and patient safety:
• Establishing quality standards
• Patient rights policies
• Safety protocols in healthcare settings

Health information and technology:
• Health information privacy policies
• Electronic health records implementation
• Telehealth regulations
Internal Reflection

• Reflect on how health inequities impact health outcomes and the well-being of individuals.

• Review and discuss current policies at your institution or in your communities that targets promotion of health equity for all.

• Reflect on your personal perspective on the meaning of diversity, equity and inclusion.
“When a community starts to listen to each other, pull together, and work towards a common goal, then anything is possible.”

Chuck, MoveOn Mobilizer
Antoniette Holt, MPH

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